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DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 27 Jul 1951

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

LAND-REFORM PROGRAM RESULTS
VARY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA

A number of letters from correspondents to the Hankow Hupei Jih-pao complain that cadres are lax, landlords are recalcitrant, and wealthy and middle-class farmers fear future liquidation, hence do not exert full efforts in production.

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VICE-GOVERNOR FANG REPORTS ON KWANGTUNG LAND REFORM -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 9 May 51

On 20 October 1950, the land-reform program began in Hsing-ning, Yang-yang, and Lung-ch'uan hsiens and was completed in 140 days. Reports from land-reform committees indicate an average of 25-30 percent good results in Hsing-ning and Yang-yang hsiens, with some areas reaching as high as 60 to 65 percent. Poor results were reported for an average of 10 percent of the area. In Lung-ch'uan Hsien good results were attained in 27 percent of the hsien, with a high point of 41 percent; poor results are reported from 32 percent of the hsien. Later inspection of the area may compel changes in the above figures.

During the period of effecting land reform, there was much expansion in the party, Youth Corps, agricultural associations, and militia organizations. In Hsing-ning Hsien, the leadership strength of the poor and hired farmers rose from 49 percent before land reform to 95 percent after land reform. The leadership strength of the middle-class farmers was reduced from 24 percent to 5 percent. The leadership strength of the landlords, wealthy farmers, and renegades was reduced from 24 percent to zero.

In carrying out land reform in Hsing-ning, Yang-yang, and Lung-ch'uan hsiens, which were considered pilot hsiens, the following distribution of land, buildings, and movable property was made.

Hsien	Land (mou)	Work Animals (head)	Implements (items)	Grain	Buildings (room units)
Hsing-ning	114,134	1,425	64,686	10,530 shih	13,501
Lung-ch'uan	171,302	2,578	25,846	48,856 shih	16,337
Yang-yang	302,884	1,443	50,369	50,369 tan [sic]	27,475
Total	588,320	5,446	140,901	8' .95 shih	67,313

(1 shih equals 103.5 liters; 1 tan equals 133.3 pounds; 1 mou equals 1/6 acre)

Depending on soil conditions, each person was given from three or four tenths of a mou to something over one mou of land.

With the masses becoming the masters, a new spirit of civic responsibility has been diffused among them and they ardently support the government's programs. Enlistment of able-bodied men in the militia has increased. New urgency and efficiency in road- and dike-building projects is apparent. Whereas, in 1950, 20,000 man-days of labor were required to repair a 20-foot break in a dike, in 1951 only 50,000 man-days were required to repair 7 li (1 li equals 1/3 mile) of dikes. The morale of the militia has risen to a new high.

Notwithstanding all these favorable indications of progress, a number of shortcomings should not be overlooked. The moral and ideological arousalment of the masses is still insufficient. Both cadres and people tend to slacken their efforts after the first apparent success has been achieved.

The militia tends to ease its pressure on the landlords. Organization is neglected; old malpractices are not corrected. Executive orders are lightly regarded.

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In some areas the feudalistic landlord ideology has not been dispelled. The landlord system dies hard. By hiding assets, by appeals to higher authorities, by dissimulation and false appearance of charitable activities, by infiltration of the agricultural associations, the militia, and especially the Youths Corps, the landlords have gained influence in basic Communist organizations. They employ legal strategems; they bribe and corrupt our cadres by use of money, goods, and women. They stir up dissension among clans and villages to avert the class war from themselves; they initiate false rumors to frighten and deceive the villagers, they assassinate, they commit arson, and they connive with special KMT agents. In view of these conditions it will be necessary to work from village to village and from house to house before all feudalistic landlordism is obliterated from our society.

Conditions of clan, family, and ancestral property relationships are peculiarly complex in Kwangtung. These, with the very large number of families and dependents of overseas Chinese in the province, add greatly to the problems of land reform and require the development of special techniques.

MILITARY CADRES UNDERTAKE KWANGTUNG LAND REFORM -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 6 Jun 51

Canton (by correspondence) -- Under a late April directive of the South China Bureau of the Central Committee of the CCP entitled "Depending on the Army to Complete the Land Reform," conferences have been held by the various military groups of the South China Military District of the PLA to plan for a simultaneous "grand-slam" drive to complete the land-reform program in 32 hsien of Kwangtung Province by 31 May. To lead out in the land-reform programs in conjunction with local land-reform workers, 1,630 specially trained military cadres had gone to designated fields of operations.

Over 1,700 cadres from the provincial and Canton municipal governments have also been sent out during May to work in the program.

NORTH KWANGSI LAND REFORM INDUCES FAMINE CONDITIONS -- Hong Kong, Kung-shang Jih-pao, 28 Apr 51

Kuei-lin (by correspondence) -- The rural districts are experiencing a dire shortage of food due to the fact that during the land-reform program introduced in north Kwangsi by the Chinese Communist government the landlords and wealthy farmers were all slaughtered or fled, middle-class farmers have become poor farmers and poor farmers have been requested to turn in their grain supplies to the agricultural associations for distribution. Formerly, the poor farmers could secure loans of seed and funds for planting from the wealthy farmers, but the latter have almost all disappeared. The poor farmers, although they have land, are not able to work it. Only a small percentage of the area is under cultivation and the worst spring food shortage in 40 years now prevails.

MASSES TO WATCH LAND-REFORM RESULTS -- Hankow, Hupeh Jih-pao, 11 Apr 51

In Chien-ning Hsien, Hupeh, land reform has been completed and the masses are now being organized and indoctrinated to watch the results for shortcomings.

The special points to be watched are (1) degree to which landlords have really accepted the new program; (2) the extent to which the emancipated masses have really been aroused to take advantage of their new status, and (3) the degree of energy with which the cadres are serving the people.

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LETTERS CHARGE CADRES LENIENT WITH LANDLORDS -- Hankow, Hupeh Jih-pao, 5 May 51

A citizen of Yen-ho Hsiang, Hupeh, writes to the editor that after having tried one landlord in a mass meeting in which the hatred of the masses was aroused to white heat and the landlord, under the accusations of over 80 complainants, was compelled to admit his faults and accept the decisions of the meeting, the cadres thought the people were sufficiently aroused and slackened off their efforts and gave themselves over to theater-going and other pleasures. Consequently, the people have also lost enthusiasm and other landlords are daring to defy the masses and refuse to carry out what they had agreed to do. The correspondent asks for an investigation.

Another correspondent in Chiang-lin Hsien, Hupeh, reports on another case. After an evil landlord had been executed because of his crimes, his daughter-in-law invited a number of farmers to her home, plied them with liquor and frightened them into promising that they would not say anything more about her late father-in-law's crimes and that they would keep her informed of all community developments having a bearing on her family. The promise was given. One man told his wife of the day's events. During the night, she reported the matter to the ch'u authorities. The plotting woman was arrested and charged with intimidation of peasants.

Another correspondent writes that in his district, where land reform has been completed, stories are going around that wealthy and middle-class farmers who prosper will be caught in a second and third land-reform program and treated as landlords. Hence, many of these classes are afraid to plant much land, and are giving their land to the agricultural associations. This sort of propaganda is circulated by the landlord class to interfere with production. Better propaganda should be conducted on the real program of the government to counteract these rumors.

In the O-ch'eng area, a correspondent writes that landlords are hiding and burying their silver dollars and other valuables to avoid confiscation of these articles in land reform. In Mien-yang Hsien, some landlords removed floor boards, etc., from their buildings that had been assigned to the peasants and secreted the floor boards. Others procrastinated in moving from their confiscated buildings and refused to turn over grain that was to be distributed. These evils resulted from lackadaisical attitudes on the part of the cadres and people. Some landlords also refuse to work. They prefer to beg for food. Oftentimes a search of their homes reveals hidden stores of both money and food. Such parasites should be compelled to work and produce.

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